

February 18, 2020

To:

Mr. Satoru Komiya,
President and Group CEO,
Tokio Marine Holdings, Inc.

Mr. Noriyuki Hara,
President and CEO,
MS&AD Insurance Group Holdings, Inc.

Mr. Kengo Sakurada
President and CEO,
Sompo Holdings, Inc.

Demand for 3 Japanese Non-Life Insurance Companies Not to Underwrite Vung Ang 2 Coal-fired Power Project in Vietnam

There is a high possibility that the Japanese major non-life insurance companies: Tokio Marine, MS&AD and SOMPO will be invited to underwrite Vung Ang 2 coal-fired power project, which is planned to be built in Vietnam. We, 32 organizations from 16 countries request the 3 non-life insurance companies not to underwrite the project for the following reasons:

1. To achieve the goal of the Paris Agreements, it is necessary even for developing countries like Vietnam to completely stop the operation of coal-fired power plants by 2040. That means, it is obviously not consistent with the Paris goals to build new coal-fired power plants.
2. Facing a growing risk of climate change, CLP Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong based utility which is in the joint venture with Mitsubishi Corporation already withdrew from the project. In addition, Standard Chartered Bank (UK), OCBC Bank (Singapore) and DBS Bank (Singapore), which were planning to finance for the project, also cancelled their consideration.
3. If Vietnam becomes more dependent on coal-fired power generation, it will increase carbon emissions in the manufacturing process for the Vietnamese manufacturing industry and lose an opportunity to get orders from manufacturers seeking decarbonization in the supply chain. As the result, Vietnam will lose its international competitiveness.
4. There are established coal-fired power plants and steel plants around the planned site of Vung Ang 2 project, and they are already causing pollution problems such as water contamination. Building Vung Ang 2 coal-fired power plants makes the pollution problems worse on the ground.
5. In Vietnam, building new coal-fired power plants is losing the economic rationality. According to a

report published by Carbon Tracker, a think tank from UK in September 2019, the new building cost of solar power will be cheaper than the operation cost of existing coal-fired power plants by 2022 in Vietnam.

6. 19 insurers including Allianz, AXA, Swiss Re, Munich Re, Chubb and QBE have adapted a policy ending/limiting their coverage of coal projects. They account for 13.6% of the primary insurance market and 47.6% of the reinsurance market. The three Japanese insurance companies would act against the international trend if they decided to underwrite new coal power plants at this time. In the trend of reinsurance companies restricting underwriting coal-fired power projects, the three Japanese non-life insurance companies are subject to a growing risk of underwriting the coal projects.
7. The three Japanese non-insurance companies have raised their insurance premiums one after another, facing an increasing amount of insurance payouts because of heavy typhoons and floods in 2018 and 2019. It is unethical to support and benefit from new coal-fired power projects that exacerbate the damage of climate change while requiring the insurance customers to pay the increased premiums.

For the reasons above, Tokio Marine, MS&AD and SOMPO should decide not to underwrite any of new coal-fired power projects including Vung Ang 2.

We look forward to receiving your response to this letter by March 19.

Contact:

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Signed by

1. 350.org Japan, Japan
2. 350.org Philippines, Philippines
3. Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa
4. Climate Watch Thailand, Thailand
5. Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), Bangladesh
6. Conservation Action Trust, India
7. Ecological Action and People Emancipation, Indonesia
8. Friends of the Earth Japan, Japan
9. Green Innovation and Development Centre (GreenID), Vietnam
10. Green South Foundation, Thailand
11. Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society (JACSES), Japan
12. Kiko Network, Japan
13. Market Forces, Australia
14. Mekong Watch, Japan
15. Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability And Mutuality (MAUSAM), India

16. NGO Forum on ADB, Philippines
17. No Coal in Oakland, USA
18. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), USA
19. Oil Change International, USA
20. OT Watch, Mongolia
21. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Pakistan
22. Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Phillipines
23. Rainforest Action Network, USA
24. Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition, Rusia
25. Rozwoj TAK - Odkrywki NIE, Poland
26. Save Krabi from Coal network, Thailand
27. Seeding Sovereignty, USA
28. Solutions for Our Climate, South Korea
29. Thepha Anti-coal network, Thailand
30. The Sunrise Project, Australia
31. Urgewald, Germany
32. WALHI, Indonesia